Elektra became an assassin-for-hire, selling herself to the highest bidder. She was hired to kill Carlos Huevos, the dictator of San Concepcion, a small South American country. Her success brought her to the attention of S.H.I.E.L.D. (Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-enforcement Division), which sent two agents—John Garrett and Arthur Perry—to determine the assassin's identity. The United States sent its own ambassador, Reich, upon whom Elektra discovered the stench of the Beast, the powerful being that controlled the Hand.

Elektra slew Reich, only to discover that the Beast had switched hosts and now possessed Ken Wind, a U.S. presidential candidate. Elektra used her skills to manipulate Garrett into assisting her, managing to thwart S.H.I.E.L.D. and to kill Wind, but Garrett was wounded in the process. To ease his pain, Elektra made Garrett believe he had switched bodies with Wind and become president. As Elektra escaped, Garrett was taken back to S.H.I.E.L.D., his dream preserved while he lay in stasis.

Elektra was hired to stop a man from killing von Eisenbluth, a Nazi war criminal who had experimented on and tortured the man's family. Elektra distracted the man, and the elderly, crippled von Eisenbluth shot him dead. However, after hearing von Eisenbluth's anti-Semitic remarks, Elektra killed him herself.

Years later, Elektra accepted a contract in New York City, finally crossing paths with Daredevil, whom she quickly learned was Matt Murdock. Matt vehemently disapproved of Elektra's profession while Elektra refused to abandon her chosen way of life. Lovers became enemies, and enemies became fierce combatants. The two still cared deeply for each other, but as far as Elektra was concerned, their love had been murdered along with her father.

The Kingpin hired Elektra as his chief assassin, eventually sending her to kill Franklin "Foggy" Nelson. When Foggy recognized her as Matt's old girlfriend, though, she could not bring herself to complete the assignment. Bullseye, seeking to regain his position as the Kingpin's chief assassin, ambushed Elektra. After an epic battle, Bullseye impaled Elektra on one of her own swords. Mortally wounded, Elektra crawled to Matt's apartment. She died in her former lover's arms.

However, after losing their master warrior Kirigi in battle, the Hand decided that resurrecting Elektra would afford them an edge in their ongoing battle with the Chaste. They exhumed her body and were in the midst of a resurrection ceremony when Daredevil, the Black Widow and Stone (a member of the Chaste) arrived and stopped them. During the battle, Daredevil tried to complete the resurrection using techniques he once saw Stick employ. He believed he was unsuccessful, but Stone saw that Daredevil had somehow cleansed Elektra's soul, purifying her spirit. He secretly took Elektra's body back to the Chaste's mountain retreat to complete the resurrection process.

Now alive and pure once more, Elektra became a member of the Chaste, remaining on their mountain for years. Later, the ninja clan known as the Snakeroot stole John Garrett from S.H.I.E.L.D. From his mind and memories they distilled Elektra's dark essence, using it to create their own warrior, Erynys. Stone and Elektra left the mountain retreat and managed to defeat Erynys while she was battling Daredevil. In the process, however, the dark essence returned to Elektra. Because she was again impure, the Chaste could not let Elektra return to their order.

Returning to the only career she knew, Elektra was hired by a man named Kiefer to kill scientist Daniel Connor. She did so successfully, but the murder was witnessed by Connor's young teenage daughter, Avery. Taking the girl with her, Elektra learned that Avery had actually been genetically engineered from Wolverine's DNA, and that her parents had been charting her progress. When Avery's parents attempted to escape their superior, Kiefer, had ordered their deaths. With the aid of Wolverine, Elektra slew Kiefer and arranged for Avery and her repentant mother, Veronica, to establish new lives, hidden from further intrusions.

Tekagi, who had worked closely with Elektra during her time with the Hand, became the new leader of the Snakeroot. Tekagi had to purify his clan's sword, Sakki, with the blood of three innocent victims to regain the power the group once held. Elektra learned of the Snakeroot's plans and set out to form her own order, or Ryu, made up of her recruits Impact, Lynch, Masquerade, Niko, Salvo, and Target. Elektra's "Army of Stealth" attempted to stop the Snakeroot from claiming its targets—Father Peter Nova, Navajo activist Singer Tsilkali, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aaron Sokoto. Elektra's order did not fare well, and all her new recruits died in battle. Fighting alone, Elektra saved the Snakeroot's final target and killed Tekagi with the clan's sword, essentially destroying the Snakeroot in the process.

Elektra helped Wolverine recover from his descent into bestial madness after Magneto tore the Adamantium metal from his body. She found camaraderie with dance instructor Konrad Weiss, and in the Dojo of King Lau and McKinley Stewart (who became her lover). She was targeted again by Bullseye, but this time she defeated him. She acted as guardian to young Nina McCabe after her father was killed. Elektra also briefly became tangled in the plot of the being known only as the Architect, last of the mysterious Shining Ones. She fought a string of would-be assassins, as well as the Four Winds, the American Samurai, the Silencer, and Kuroyama, a warrior of the Hand, who slew Nina and resurrected her as one of their own.

Once more an assassin-for-hire, Elektra was hired by the next incarnation of S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate) to kill Saddam Abed Dasam, the leader of Iraq, and retrieve a box in his possession. She succeeded in retrieving the box's contents — the powerful Scorpio Key — but refused to hand it over to anyone, especially S.H.I.E.L.D. Instead, Elektra captured the police officer responsible for killing her father years before. Because the two shared an intimate bond of tragedy, she entrusted the box and the key that it held to him, knowing that he would keep it safe.

After assisting sexual assault victim Ione Katamides in gaining vengeance on her attackers, Elektra encountered the Hand once again. Led by Takashi, the Hand sought to use basketball star and political hopeful Lyle Crawford. Elektra was guided to oppose this by the spirit of Lyle's dead father, jazz musician "Black Cat" Buddy Crawford, who had been killed by the Hand years before. Ultimately, Elektra decapitated Lyle before he could be transformed into the Earthly incarnation of the Hand's Beast.

Elektra encountered Jeremy Locke, a member of the Coalition, a group of people who sought revenge against her for killing their loved ones. Managing to drug and capture Elektra, Locke attempted to make her understand the consequences of her actions and abandon her long cycle of violence. The rest of the Coalition sought to kill Elektra, but she slew most of them instead. However, Locke had successfully reached Elektra, and she returned to him for help. Locke's assistant, Carson, recruited his friend, the female sensei Drake, to help Elektra break her addiction to violence. Upon their first meeting, Drake easily bested Elektra in a quick sparring match. Through Drake's training, Elektra learned her proper path. For once, her life had meaning.

The Hand, meanwhile, was angered that someone had been influencing Elektra whom they still considered to be their warrior. They slew the remaining members of the Coalition, except Locke, whom they kidnapped. After the Hand poisoned and killed Drake,

Art by Bill Sienkiewicz

Elektra agreed to meet the Hand to save Locke. To kill the final agent of the Hand, Elektra plunged her sword into him straight through Locke, killing them both and restarting her personal cycle of violence.

Once more, Elektra began to travel the world, assassinating the likes of Leonard Prebble, corrupt Djanda president Bridget Hapanmyas, and her own employers when they attempted to betray her. She once spent a week killing the Punisher's targets before he could. When the two finally met up, she told him that she had done it because she was bored. Intrigued, the Punisher asked her out on a date.

On an adventure to the nation of Naou, she was hired to kill the Piaka Loio (the Bloody Prophet), allegedly a reincarnation of the death god Bara. Elektra slaughtered the Prophet's followers, but upon learning that the Prophet was actually a small child, she allowed him to live. She had eliminate all evidence of the child's ever having been the Prophet, knowing no one would believe him.

Returning to the USA, Elektra was hired by Evgeny Bezzubenkov to kill his Russian mobster father Urishka so that he could succeed him. In the process, Elektra suffered from a severe flu she had contracted in Naou. While dazed and feverish, Elektra had a vision of the god Bara, during which time she believed herself to be fighting for her life against the death god while she was actually slaying both Urishka and Evgeny. Subsequently, she visited her own grave where she encountered Daredevil again. Feeling there was no longer any existing relationship between them, Elektra fled.

Without a sensei, without purpose, Elektra remains an assassin — one who knows exactly what it feels like to die every time she takes a life. She is a shadow, unseen until the moment she chooses to reveal herself. Her life is one of seclusion, world travel, cover identities, disguises, and an ongoing inner battle that takes a toll as severe as the world of violence, blood and death in which she lives.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Height: 5'9"
Weight: 130 lbs.
Eyes: Blue-black
Hair: Black

Distinguishing Features: Her fingerprints have been removed.

POWERS & ABILITIES

Superhuman Powers: Elektra has occasionally demonstrated low-level telekinesis, though it is possible that this may be just illusion which victims of her mesmerism are led to see. She can communicate telepathically with individuals possessing similar levels of mental discipline, such as the Chaste.

Abilities: Elektra possesses peak human levels of strength, speed, agility, reflexes, stamina, etc. She is an expert in Ninjutsu and various other martial arts, as well as gymnastics. She is a mistress of the skills of the ancient Ninja warriors of Japan.

Elektra has numerous abilities which border on the superhuman. She can control her own autonomic nervous system to a degree, controlling bleeding, fighting infection, etc. She is able to keep to the shadows and move with such speed that she can remain unseen even in broad daylight. She also has demonstrated on occasion the ability to mesmerize others, and as such make them see illusions or other phenomena.

Weaponry: Elektra is highly proficient with such weaponry as long swords, shuriken (throwing stars), and especially the sai, a special three-pronged dagger. In addition, Elektra is experienced with a variety of firearms, explosives, and even anti-tank or aircraft artillery.

VANESSA FISK

REAL NAME: Vanessa Fisk
KNOWN ALIASES: Mrs. K
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Independently wealthy; briefly led the New York mobs
CITIZENSHIP: Unrevealed; presumably naturalized citizen of the United States of America

PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
MARITAL STATUS: Married; currently separated
KNOWN RELATIVES: Wilson Fisk (husband), Richard Fisk (son, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Self-educated in European arts and culture
FIRST APPEARANCE: Amazing Spider-Man, Vol. 1 #70 (1969)

HISTORY: Vanessa appeared to be only fifteen years old when she was brought before Wilson Fisk by his band of thieves to be used as chattel. Though she was lost, afraid, and amnesiac, Fisk saw her natural grace and depth of spirit. Fisk--already known as the Kingpin--saw in her the object of every lonely dream he'd ever had. Within a short time, Vanessa and Wilson were married, and their son, Richard, was born within one year of their marriage.

When Richard was a youth, Vanessa tried to shield him from the life his father led. At times she even had to protect Richard from Wilson, who saw him as weak, pathetic, and an embarrassment. Though Vanessa loved Wilson, their relationship seemed to drain her life. Her health had already begun to deteriorate when she sent Richard off to school in Europe.

After college (equivalent to U.S. private high school), Richard remained in Europe and faked his own suicide. Partially in denial, Wilson attempted to shield Vanessa from this news. Having recently become head of the New York mobs, Wilson had told Vanessa that he was bringing the violence of his life to an end. Soon after Vanessa helped Wilson escape both Spider-Man and the police, she learned of Richard's apparent death. Shortly thereafter, however, Vanessa saw Wilson struggling against his rival, the Schemer, whose eyes she quickly recognized as Richard's. When Wilson learned the Schemer's identity, he lapsed into an inert state.

Vanessa had Wilson taken to an institution to restore his mind. When this failed, Richard had his father's mind restored via hyper-shock treatment. Richard, then acting as leader of a faction of the terrorist organization Hydra, sought to involve his father in the group, but instead the Kingpin tried to destroy the faction. Vanessa was forced to allow Wilson to learn that the Supreme Hydra was Richard in order to prevent Wilson from killing him.

Richard was nearly killed in the ensuing conflict involving the Red Skull, and the Kingpin sought to save him by draining the life of Spider-Man. Though Vanessa opposed these means, she was nonetheless pleased when Richard was revived. Spider-Man survived the process, and the Kingpin was seemingly killed in the subsequent struggle. Vanessa allowed Spider-Man to leave in peace, as she was grateful for regaining her son.

After the Kingpin recovered, Vanessa convinced him to retire from his life of crime. She gave him a 24-hour ultimatum to put his affairs in order and leave with her for Japan, or else she would leave him forever. Holding him to that exact time, Vanessa walked in on him at the stroke of midnight and stopped him from killing a defeated Spider-Man.

Wishing Wilson to prove his commitment, Vanessa convinced him to turn over his files on the activities of leaders of organized crime to American legal authorities. She returned to New York to acquire the legal services of Nelson & Murdock, but leaders of the Kingpin's former syndicate learned of this and tried to prevent this from happening. To this end, their agent Bruno assaulted the meeting between Vanessa and her lawyers, and they used the distraction to kidnap her.

Art by John Romita Jr.

Her captors arranged a simple trade: Vanessa for the Kingpin's files. The Kingpin met them at the arranged construction site, but he used a high-pitched sonic device to incapacitate his enemies. The Kingpin rushed to rescue Vanessa; however, one of the Kingpin's aides, Lynch, who correctly recognized Vanessa as the only obstacle preventing Fisk from returning to crime, launched a mortar that collapsed the building on them. The Kingpin was only stunned, but Vanessa was nowhere to be found.

In the sewers below the collapsed building, Vanessa awakened, concussed and amnesiac. She wandered the sewers and streets, seeking food, during which time she was photographed by Ben Urich. She soon found herself among a group of homeless people under the dominion of the grotesque King of the Sewers, who picked Vanessa to be his next "Queen." Fortunately, Urich notified Daredevil of her whereabouts; Daredevil defeated the King and brought Vanessa back to the surface.

Meanwhile, the Kingpin had retaken control of New York's mobs, slain Lynch for his actions, and installed his agent Randolph Cherryh as the next mayor of New York City. Daredevil confronted the Kingpin, showed him Vanessa's ring, and insisted that he remove Cherryh from office if he wanted her back. The Kingpin acquiesced.

Overwhelmed by her recent experiences, Vanessa slipped from periods of dazed lucidity to a virtually comatose state. During a waking moment, she was briefly held hostage by a drug-addled Punisher. The Kingpin saved her and brutally beat the Punisher for his transgression. Realizing that his enemy Micah Synn might seek to attack him through Vanessa, the Kingpin hired actress Heidi DeVoto to impersonate her. Heidi (as Vanessa) was abducted by agents of Micah, and was killed while trying to help Becky Blake escape from becoming an intended human sacrifice.

The Kingpin's agent, the Answer, determined that light energy from the vigilante Dagger might prove able to cure Vanessa. To this end, the Answer kidnapped Dagger, but found that her energies were being drained by the cyborg Silvermane. The Answer sacrificed his own life energy to restore Dagger, but she refused to donate any of her energies to help the Kingpin's wife.

On their twentieth wedding anniversary, the Kingpin became desperate to cure Vanessa. He made a generous offer to French psychiatrist Dr. Paul Mondat to come to New York to treat her. However, after Mondat arrived, the Kingpin had his agent Victor kidnap the doctor's wife Cheryl. The Kingpin hoped that having Mondat's wife would inspire the doctor's passion to cure Vanessa in order to save his own wife as quickly as possible. However, while Mondat did help Vanessa significantly, he also made her loyal to and dependent on him. When the stuporous Vanessa asked Mondat to help her escape from Wilson--which the Kingpin saw over his monitor--Fisk knew he had lost her. Daredevil rescued Cheryl Mondat, and the Kingpin gave Mondat a blank check on a bottomless bank account to finance the completion of Vanessa's treatment. The Mondats and Vanessa departed for Europe, where Vanessa would receive a new identity.

While Vanessa was being treated, the Kingpin kept her under surveillance. Learning of a plot to kill her, the Kingpin had Vanessa returned to New York while he personally dealt with the threat. The Kingpin instructed Dr. Zachar to keep Vanessa calm so she would not be shocked by her sudden return. Vanessa showed progress by recognizing Richard during one of his visits, but Zachar heavily sedated (and scolded) Vanessa. Upon returning, the Kingpin killed Zachar for his perceived abuse of his wife, after which he had her sent back to Europe.

Vanessa stayed in Europe when she heard of the Kingpin's fall from power, though she did shed a tear on his behalf. When the Kingpin was nearly killed sometime later, however, Vanessa returned to America. Utilizing the Kingpin's former agent, Walter Dini, she sent Wilson to Switzerland for treatment while she stayed behind and plotted revenge. Under Vanessa's instructions, the Kingpin's men killed all those who had a part in her husband's attack. The mastermind of the effort, Sammy Silke, managed to escape to the police. Vanessa herself confronted her son Richard, who had been Sammy's silent partner, and shot him in cold blood.

Hoping to put an end to her involvement with New York and the criminal underworld once and for all, Vanessa sold Fisk Tower and divided the Kingpin's business between several of his former colleagues, including the Stilt-Man. However, she deliberately refused to offer any portion to the Owl, whom she cursed, knowing that he would then take apart the people she had put in power.

Vanessa had one last dinner, meeting with Daredevil and giving him the name of Henry Dobbs, the FBI agent who had given his secret identity (learned from Silke) to the Daily Globe newspaper. Vanessa then told Daredevil that she was leaving New York, never to return. The Kingpin eventually returned to New York, killing Dini and others who helped Vanessa murder his son. Whether Vanessa has truly seen the last of New York or the Kingpin of Crime remains to be seen.

Art by Alex Maleev

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Height: 5'8"
Weight: 125 lbs.
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Black with white streaks

POWERS & ABILITIES

Abilities: Vanessa is generally quite nonviolent, but she can be cold, calculating, and vengeful when she needs to be. She is competent in the use of firearms.

POWER GRID 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

INTELLIGENCE	
STRENGTH	
SPEED	
DURABILITY	
ENERGY PROJECTION	
FIGHTING SKILLS	

GLADIATOR

REAL NAME: Melvin Potter
KNOWN ALIASES: Formerly the Gladiator
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Costume designer and seller, gym owner/manager, occasional bodyguard; former professional criminal
CITIZENSHIP: United States of America with a criminal record
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed

MARITAL STATUS: Married
KNOWN RELATIVES: Betsy Beatty Potter (wife)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Former member of Electro's Emissaries of Evil and the Nefaria "Family" of the Maggia; formerly led own criminal gang
EDUCATION: High School
FIRST APPEARANCE: Daredevil Vol. 1 #18 (1966)

HISTORY: The proprietor of the Spotlight Costume shop, Melvin Potter developed a fanatical hatred of masked heroes, believing that it was only their colorful costumes that made them popular. He believed anyone could put on a costume and become a hero...or a villain. When Franklin "Foggy" Nelson came to his shop to purchase a Daredevil costume--hoping to impress Karen Page by convincing her he was Daredevil--Potter suggested hiring someone to dress up as a villain and attack Foggy and Karen. Foggy could then change into the Daredevil costume and save the day. Foggy agreed to the scheme.

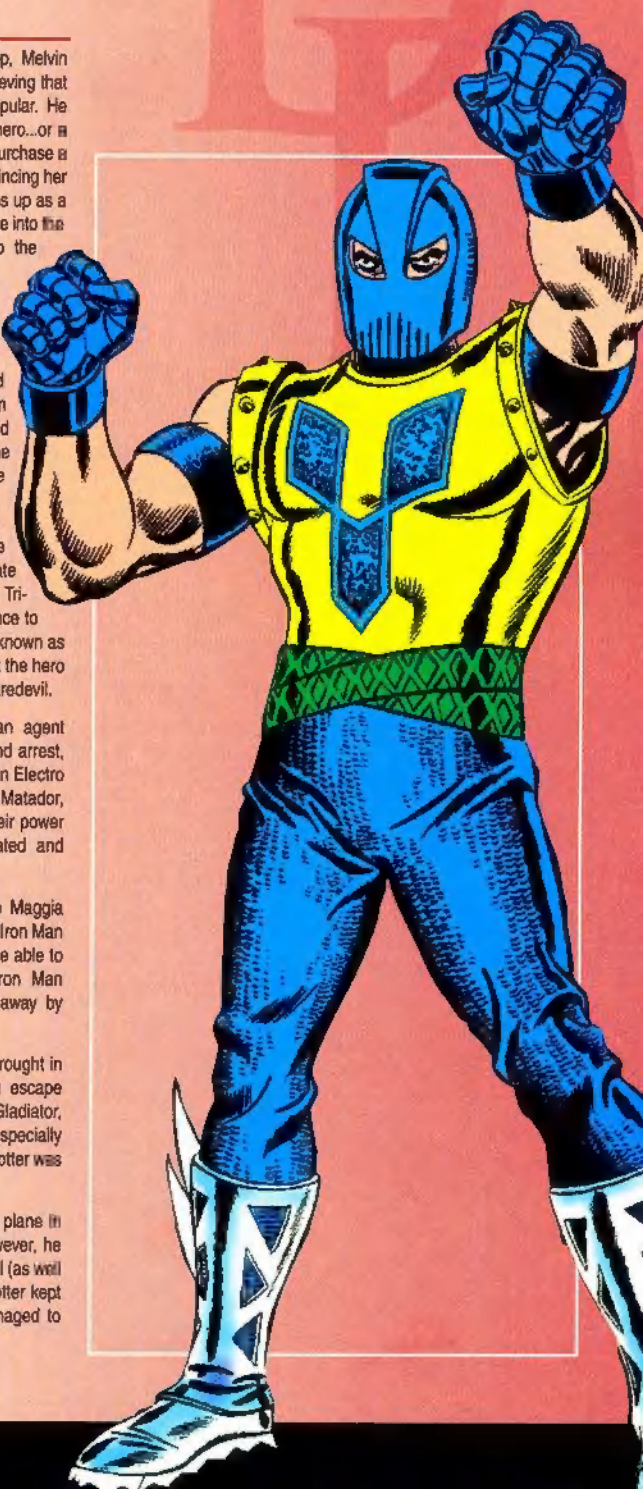
Melvin designed a gladiator costume and then attacked Foggy and Karen while they took a stroll on a pier, surrounded by a thick fog. His vision occluded by the mist, the Gladiator failed to notice the real Daredevil had arrived to protect his friends. When the police arrived to take him away, Gladiator believed it was Foggy who had defeated him, and that he must be the real Daredevil. While in the custody of the police, Potter was freed by agents of the Masked Marauder, who also believed that Foggy was Daredevil. They planned to ambush Foggy, but learned the truth when the real Daredevil showed up and defeated the Marauder's agents. Potter joined the Marauder in a separate assault on Daredevil involving the Marauder's synthetic Tri-Man warrior. During this struggle the Gladiator had a chance to work for the Marauder's superiors, the crime organization known as the Maggia. He then released a lion to attack Daredevil but the hero had to rescue him from it. Potter then refused to attack Daredevil.

Nonetheless, the Maggia accepted the Gladiator as an agent working for them in Europe. Rankled by his last defeat and arrest, the Gladiator was pleased when the Maggia sent him to join Electro and his Emissaries of Evil--Leap-Frog (Vincent Patilio), the Matador, and Stilt-Man--in a mass assault on Daredevil. Despite their power and numbers, the unorganized Emissaries were defeated and captured by Daredevil.

After escaping from prison, the Gladiator convinced the Maggia leader, Big M (later Madame Masque), to send him against Iron Man (Tony Stark), hoping that by proving his ability, he would be able to assume leadership of the Maggia. After a struggle, Iron Man managed to electrocute the Gladiator, who was taken away by security guards.

In prison, Potter feigned amnesia, and when the guards brought in his equipment to refresh his memory he used it in an escape attempt. However, Daredevil was on hand to oppose the Gladiator, delaying him until his blades disintegrated; they had been specially treated in advance as insurance against such an attempt. Potter was easily recaptured.

The Gladiator later led his own gang in a plot to hijack a plane in order to sell it to the highest South American bidder. However, he was unaware that the flight's passengers included Daredevil (as well as the Black Widow). Threatening to detonate a bomb, Potter kept Daredevil at bay for a time, but eventually the hero managed to confront and overpower him.



Art by John Romita Sr.

The Gladiator was employed by Death-Stalker to locate the papers Ted Sallis had used in his Super Soldier serum. Finding them in the Florida Everglades, Potter kidnapped Candace Nelson (half-sister to Franklin "Foggy" Nelson), who had been investigating the papers as part of her graduate project. When Daredevil intervened, the Gladiator successfully defeated him, but was then subdued by the monstrous Man-Thing (Sallis himself, transformed by his own serum).

The Gladiator joined forces with the Beetle (Abner Jenkins) against Daredevil, but both were defeated. He was then hired by the criminal Enforcer to steal an electronic device from the Eel (Leopold Stryke), leading to an encounter with the Ghost Rider (Johnny Blaze); Potter slew the Eel after finding him empty-handed. The Gladiator was used by the Purple Man alongside Cobra, the Jester, and Mr. Hyde in an attack on Daredevil in Ryker's Island prison, but the hero defeated all of his attackers.

Following his latest defeat, Potter came under the care of social worker Betsy Beatty. Though he had begun to make significant progress in coming to terms with his rage, Potter came to believe that Beatty loved him because he was the Gladiator, leading him to retake his armor and hold a museum full of people hostage, demanding a champion to battle. Daredevil arrived to fight the Gladiator; the battle moved to an exhibit fashioned after a Roman gladiatorial arena where Daredevil managed to incapacitate him.

With Beatty's aid and Matt Murdock as his attorney, Potter began to move toward reforming. In the process, he was mistaken for a lookalike, Michael Reese, a.k.a. Ladykiller, who had years before assaulted and crippled Murdock's assistant, Becky Blake. Potter broke out of prison to clear his name, but Murdock convinced him to turn himself in; Daredevil defeated Reese and exposed the truth. The Hand targeted Potter for death in the midst of his subsequent trial. He was defended by Elektra, who brought him the Gladiator armor. The armor served to protect Potter who had lost his killer instinct; Elektra and Daredevil fought off the ninjas. Later, while Daredevil was again occupied with the Hand, Foggy Nelson came to Potter's rescue by having a mistrial declared.

Returning to his career as the owner of his costume shop, Potter declined an offer to return to crime as the partner of Turk Barrett. Sometime later, a group of criminals hid out in Potter's shop and forced him at gunpoint to don his Gladiator armor and help them escape the police. Wounded in their initial assault, the dazed Potter came to believe he was a Roman gladiator fighting in the arena, resulting in a battle with Spider-Man, but the hero talked him down and Potter retired the armor again. However, criminals kidnapped Betsy and tried to force Melvin to steal a million dollars for them. Unable to stomach his old armor, he donned a Roman gladiator's costume to commit the thefts, but also called Matt Murdock for help. His actions and the wearing of armor pushed him again to the edge of insanity, but Daredevil subdued him, after which the two rescued Betsy.

Agents of the Kingpin coerced Potter into making a Daredevil costume which they placed on a psychopathic killer, but Daredevil overheard Potter telling this to Betsy and the hero subdued the imposter. Potter later helped Daredevil by designing a Kingpin costume to fool Spider-Man when the real Kingpin returned to New York to stabilize the ongoing gang war. Spotlight Costumes also designed the uniform for Eric Masterson (Thor/Thunderstrike).

Potter and Betsy eventually married, though Potter donned the Gladiator armor once again in an effort to dissuade a young hoodlum from trying to emulate him. Potter and Betsy both attended the funeral of Karen Page, and Melvin has continued to help Matt Murdock, taking care of Fogwell's Gym (where Matt's father, "Battling Jack" Murdock, used to train) and serving as his bodyguard after his secret identity was compromised. Though Potter appears to have found peace at last, the specter of violence is not easily shed, and it remains to be seen if he will be able to maintain his current path in life.

With Potter retired, Mr. Fear (Cranston) gave a revamped version of his armor to another man, described only as a warrior born. Sent to battle Daredevil inside Ryker's Island prison, he eventually met defeat. This man then shaved his head to more closely mimic Potter and again wore the armor as part of the Gang of Four—alongside Copperhead, the Owl, and Stilt-Man, undertaking a strategic attack on the Kingpin's empire. Copperhead was exposed and accused of using the group as pawns for his demonic master, and Daredevil and Spider-Man helped break up the plot.

Potter has no known connection to the Imperial Guardsman Gladiator (Kallark), Hugo Danner (a.k.a. Man-God), or Randy Kellogg (Gladiator of the New Universe).

Height: 6'6"
Weight: 300 lbs.
Eyes: Blue
Hair: None

Distinguishing Features: Potter wears a moustache.

POWERS & ABILITIES

Superhuman Powers: None

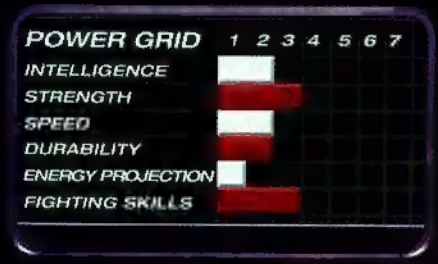
Abilities: Melvin Potter is in excellent physical condition, possessing peak human strength, as well as the speed, stamina, agility, and reflexes of an athlete. He was a savage fighter and an excellent hand-to-hand combatant, though he has put that behavior behind him.

Melvin is also a highly talented costume designer.

Equipment: As the Gladiator, Melvin wore a suit of body armor, including a full metal helmet and metal gauntlets. His tough nylon boots are studded with tungsten blades, and his helmet contains an oxygen regenerator, enabling him to resist gas attacks.

His chief weapons are jagged circular blades made of titanium steel, one mounted on each gauntlet. Small rotors in the gauntlets cause the blades to rotate at high speeds. These blades are primarily offensive weapons, able to lacerate anything they touch. However, they also work as shields, shattering many weapons before they can strike him. They also function to provide him some lift, enabling him to leap great distances.

He also briefly wore a costume patterned after a Roman gladiator in which he wore body armor and used a shield.



FIRST APPEARANCE: Daredevil Vol. 1 #174 (1981)

HISTORY: At least a millennium old, the Hand is a ninja assassin guild, pursuing dark agendas while lending its services to anyone who meets its price. Guided by jonin masters under leadership of a secretive Five, its origins are shrouded in mystery, but its members worship and derive power from a demon-god known as the Beast. At some point, one faction of the Hand, believing that it alone could best serve the Beast, splintered into a separate cult, the True Believers, and a blood feud has existed between the two ever since. More bitter enemies still are the Chaste, mystic warriors who have checked the Hand's spread and struggled to prevent it from claiming the sacred sword of Yamato-Take, a talisman that could give them mastery over Japan. Their war was long a stalemate, neither side achieving definite victory.

The Hand has met many setbacks over the past few decades. Early in the twentieth century, it sought a foothold in the island nation of Madripoor, only to be opposed by the adventurer Seraph, who was later joined in her struggle by her protege, the mutant fighter now known as Wolverine. The Hand formed an alliance of its own with Nazi Baron Strucker, but alongside Captain America and others, Wolverine foiled the Hand's attempt to transform his young friend, Natasha Romanova, into a master assassin. The alliance with Strucker's terrorist cell Hydra ended when Strucker denounced the Hand's practices and defeated its leaders. In the late 1950s, the Hand recruited Drake, a rejected Chaste student who hoped to destroy the Hand from within. Won to its ways, she devoted her deadly skills to its cause for over a decade, but in 1972, after a clash between the Hand and the Chaste led her to kill her own father, she turned against them, eventually teaching martial arts to young students instead.

The Hand foresaw one whose skill would rival Drake's, and when young Elektra Natchios was endangered, a Hand assassin saved her life. After studying with and being rejected by the Chaste, Elektra, like Drake, infiltrated the Hand, but she too fell under its power; she remained with them for a year or two before setting out on her own as a mercenary, but the Hand could not be eluded so easily. In one of the cult's boldest moves, the Beast itself possessed a U.S. presidential candidate, but Elektra foiled this plan with the help of S.H.I.E.L.D. cyborg John Garrett, who ended the adventure comatose, a portion of Elektra's psyche remaining trapped within his own– a legacy that ensured he would again feel the Hand's touch.

In recent years, the Hand has expanded operations to America, taking contracts from more conventional criminals. Its warriors first clashed with Daredevil when hired by the Kingpin to assassinate Matt Murdock; when Murdock fought off the first wave, Elektra secretly aided him, then worked with him and the Gladiator (Melvin Potter) against a second band. The jonin, nursing a grudge against Elektra, sent immortal warrior giant Kirigi against her, but Elektra slew them both. The contract was seemingly cancelled, but the Hand, having reached once for Daredevil, would not be so easily evaded.

REAL NAME: Jessica "Jess" Campbell Jones
KNOWN ALIASES: Jewel, Knightress, Madeleine, other aliases in the course of her investigative work
IDENTITY: Publicly known, although few people remember her costumed activities
OCCUPATION: Private investigator, former adventurer, otherwise unrevealed
CITIZENSHIP: U.S. citizen with no known criminal record

PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed, possibly Forest Hills, NY
MARITAL STATUS: Single
KNOWN RELATIVES: Dave (father, deceased); mother (name unrevealed, deceased); Phillip (brother, deceased); adoptive father (name unrevealed); adoptive mother (name unrevealed); adoptive sister (name unrevealed); Jenny (adoptive aunt)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: High school diploma, private investigator's license

HISTORY: Jessica Jones was a lonely Midtown High School student with a crush on fellow student Peter Parker (who would soon become the hero Spider-Man) and a fantasy fixation on the Human Torch. She was on a trip to Disney World with her family when her father, distracted by the backseat quarrel of her and her brother, lost control of their car in an accident with an army truck transporting unidentified experimental material, possibly radioactive, to which Jessica was exposed in the course of the accident. Her father, mother, and brother were killed, and Jessica sustained injuries that put her in a coma for months. While the Fantastic Four clashed with Galactus outside her hospital window, Jessica awoke from her coma; she was placed in a home for wayward children and later adopted by a family named Jones, whose name she took.

Months after the accident, while running home from school in an emotionally distraught state, Jessica manifested superhuman powers as a result of the experimental material to which she had been exposed; her inexperienced flying led her to crash-land in the bay, where she was rescued by Thor. She soon realized that she had also gained superhuman strength. While testing her flight capabilities, she chanced upon and defeated the costumed criminal known as the Scorpion, in desperate straits not long after his first defeat by Spider-Man. Proclaimed a hero, Jessica soon took on the costumed identity of Jewel, beginning her heroic career less than three years after Spider-Man's debut.

Little is known of Jessica's career as Jewel, but her activities were evidently not as high-profile as those of many of New York's other costumed heroes. Nevertheless, she remained active for around four years, befriending a handful of other heroes, until she came upon a riot provoked by the Purple Man. Using his pheromone powers to take control of her, the Purple Man directed her to attack the approaching police, then held her in his thrall for months, subjecting her to physical and mental humiliation in imagined retaliation for his defeats by other super heroes. Finally, in a fit of insane rage, he sent Jessica to Avengers Mansion hoping she would find and kill his nemesis, Daredevil. Jessica attacked the first hero she saw, the Scarlet Witch, an act that snapped her out of the Purple Man's control. Unprepared to explain her actions, she fled and was pursued by the Avengers, taking a powerful blow from the Vision. Ms. Marvel (Carol Danvers) rescued her from further attack, but Jessica was rendered comatose and cared for in a S.H.I.E.L.D. facility until Phoenix of the X-Men telepathically helped her regain her faculties. After weeks of physical rehabilitation, she was offered the position of S.H.I.E.L.D. liaison to the Avengers, but Jessica felt that her experience had taught her that she was unsuited to the life of a costumed hero, and she gave up her Jewel identity. Moreover, she found that the Purple Man's mistreatment had left her emotionally unsure of herself, particularly in romantic endeavors.

Details of Jessica's subsequent life are sparse, although it is known that she was involved in a string of relationships that ended badly, including one with S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Clay Quartermain. She also became close friends with Ms. Marvel, who would undergo her own share of trauma during her Avengers membership and afterward. At

Art by David Mack

one point Jessica attempted to return to costumed action as the Knightress, but this period was brief. She eventually became a licensed private investigator and opened her own firm, Alias Investigations.

Jessica's recent string of cases included a surveillance assignment involving a woman whose companion was revealed to be Captain America, who changed from his then-secret identity into costume before Jessica's video camera; when the woman whom he had been photographed with was slain, Jessica realized she had been set up. She was questioned by suspicious police officers but helped out of her predicament by the timely arrival of attorney Matt Murdock. Her investigation led to a fight with enforcer Man-Mountain Marko and the revelation that she had been expected to publicize the video with the intent of creating a scandal defaming Captain America and the US government. With the help of S.H.I.E.L.D., Jessica exposed the plot's mastermind, a man named Zoumas, and received the thanks of Captain America, who encouraged her to return to the heroic life. Jessica next investigated a deranged man claiming to be Avengers associate Rick Jones, who paranoically feared attack by the Skrull races in whose war the real Jones had intervened. Jessica managed to partially calm his madness and reunited him with his wife. She was then hired by J. Jonah Jameson in an effort to track Spider-Man, only to irk the publisher by spending his money on charitable endeavors. An out-of-town case led her to help troubled teen Rebecca Cross, who had run away after encouraging people to believe she was a mutant out of rebellion against her town's oppressive atmosphere, but the case ended badly when Rebecca's aunt killed her unjustly accused father.

When Daredevil's secret identity as Matt Murdock was exposed, Murdock hired Jessica and the hero-for-hire Luke Cage as bodyguards. This initially proved awkward as Jessica and Cage had had a brief fling which strained their friendship, but they soon resolved their difficulties. Jessica instead began dating Scott Lang, the Avenger known as Ant-Man, with whom she was set up by her friend Carol Danvers, now Warbird. She next found herself investigating the Mutant Growth Hormone trade, and teamed up with fellow superhuman investigator and ex-costumed heroine Jessica Drew to rescue Mattie Franklin, the young heroine known as Spider-Woman, from being misused by the dealers. She also hired the dedicated but annoying young Malcolm Powder as a part-time assistant. When the Kingpin sent the insane assassin Typhoid Mary against Murdock, Jessica and Cage worked together against her, getting her on the ropes so that Murdock could deliver a blow to end the fight.

Jessica's greatest challenge came when relatives of some of the Purple Man's victims asked her to confront the imprisoned villain about his many murders, several of them committed on whims, in hopes that he would give their families a sense of closure by confessing to his killings. She was greatly apprehensive about confronting her former tormentor, but being consoled by Cage, she agreed to visit the Purple Man in prison, only to receive no useful information from the psychopathic mind-controller. The Purple Man then escaped in the chaos caused by the breakout of fellow prisoner Carnage, and he sought out Jessica in order to again control her. When the Avengers arrived, he commanded Jessica to fight them, but she activated a psychic defense trigger left in her mind by Phoenix years earlier and defied him, knocking him out with one blow.

In the aftermath of the confrontation, Jessica informed Ant-Man that she was pregnant with another man's child and the couple broke up. She instead moved in with Cage, the father, and the two began a long-term relationship. Jessica has since taken a position as a superhuman consultant with the Daily Bugle, working with reporter Ben Urich on stories related to New York's growing super hero population.

Art by David Mack

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Height: 5'7"
Weight: 124 lbs.
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown, formerly dyed pink

POWERS & ABILITIES:

Superhuman Powers: Jessica Jones possesses superhuman strength; the parameters of her strength are unrevealed, but she can lift an automobile with no discernible effort. She possesses an enhanced level of resistance to physical injury, although she is unsure of whether or not she is bulletproof. She is also able to fly, although she is out of practice in doing so.

Abilities: Jessica Jones is a reasonably skilled detective and hand-to-hand combatant.

REAL NAME: Wilson Grant Fisk
KNOWN ALIASES: The Brainwasher, Harold Howard
IDENTITY: Publicly known to be the Kingpin, though it has never been officially proven
OCCUPATION: Criminal organizer and mastermind, former president and owner of legitimate businesses
CITIZENSHIP: United States of America
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
MARITAL STATUS: Married, currently separated
KNOWN RELATIVES: Vanessa (wife), Richard (son, deceased), Anatoly Fyskov (ancestor)

GROUP AFFILIATION: Former member of Las Vegas HYDRA faction, "Acts of Vengeance" prime movers, leader of a coalition of East Coast non-Maggia criminal organizations, former head of Fujikawa Industries
EDUCATION: Self-educated to college level in political science
FIRST APPEARANCE: Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #50 (1967)

HISTORY: Wilson Fisk is the descendant of Anatoly Fyskov, a Russian businessman who immigrated to the USA in the late 19th century. Initially an unpopular, blubbery boy, Wilson was impoverished and bullied as a child. Committing his first murder at age twelve, Fisk became determined to be the best at whatever he did. Believing physical strength to be a major factor in building power in the underworld, he trained relentlessly in body building and personal combat. His pursuit of the Japanese art of sumo led to an interest in the Orient. He educated himself by stealing books from stores and libraries, becoming particularly fascinated by political science. Refusing to work as any criminal's henchman, Fisk's combined strength and intellect led him to become leader of a small gang of thugs. His use of political techniques in organizing and directing groups of criminals earned him the nickname "kingpin of crime," a title which he held by the age of fifteen.

Although Fisk took great pleasure in physical combat with his enemies, he recognized the necessity to never place himself in a situation where the law could prove his responsibility for crimes. As a result, it is believed that Fisk has never been convicted. Fisk's gang rapidly grew in size, influence, power, and wealth. He was careful to invest his illegal gains in legitimate businesses; the first company he owned dealt only in spices from the Far East. Fisk eventually developed a vast legitimate business empire, though he still professed to be merely a humble spice dealer.

About a decade after becoming a criminal leader, Fisk met, fell in love with, and soon married Vanessa. Her love gave him the peace he sought after his constant struggle for power. Their son, Richard, was born within a year after their marriage. Not long after this, in order to advance his own position, the Kingpin slew one of his own business partners, a Cheyenne known as Crazy Horse. Fisk became the guardian of Crazy Horse's daughter, Maya Lopez, recognizing her talents and sending her to a school for prodigies.

The Kingpin continued to increase his influence over time, working under and gaining the respect of such noted crime

Art by David Mazzucchelli

lords ■ Don Rigoletto and Max "Hammer" Stryker; Fisk eventually slew Rigoletto and usurped his power. One of his earliest encounters with ■ superhuman occurred when he employed the young Josephine Pulaski to use her powers to sabotage ■ local construction site. This nearly brought the Kingpin into direct conflict with the young hero Spider-Man.

Nearly twenty years after the Kingpin married Vanessa, Spider-Man briefly retired. The Kingpin seized the moment and proposed ■ coalition of criminal gangs in order to compete with the Maggia, which virtually monopolized organized crime throughout the country. Meeting with nearly unanimous acceptance, the Kingpin then directed ■ major crime ■■■■ in New York City. The return of Spider-Man brought this wave to a virtual halt and partially dissolved the coalition, though the Kingpin maintained control of the gangs of New York.

Irritated by Spider-Man's opposition, the Kingpin allowed himself to become personally involved in a conflict involving ■ mysterious life-giving ancient stone tablet. As a result, he was jailed for stealing ■■ tablet, though he did escape from prison and the charges were dropped due to lack of evidence. He next entered into conflict with ■ rival crimelord, the Schemer, who turned out to be ■■ ■■■ son, Richard. Believing Richard to have died, the Kingpin was devastated upon Richard's unmasking and lapsed into ■ comatose state.

After conventional treatments failed to revive his father, Richard used experimental hyper-shock therapy on him. Richard then involved his father in a Las Vegas contingent of the then fragmented Hydra; through this group the Kingpin plotted to overthrow the United States government and even achieve world domination. He turned against Hydra after learning his faction was actually controlled by the Red Skull (Johann Schmidt). Since this time the Kingpin has generally pursued ■■■■ realistic goals.

The Kingpin captured Spider-Man and drained his life force to treat Richard's injuries sustained ■ the Hydra conflict. Spider-Man regained his strength and fought the Kingpin, who fell to his seeming death. Initially amnesiac, the Kingpin recovered and rejoined Vanessa, who persuaded him to retire from ■■ life of crime and move to Japan with her. Vanessa also convinced him to turn over files on the activities of leaders of organized crime to American legal authorities. However, the former members of the Kingpin's crime syndicate kidnapped Vanessa. The Kingpin eventually agreed to exchange the files for Vanessa, surviving several assassination attempts in the process. However, ■■ he approached Vanessa, his own lieutenant Lynch caused a building to collapse, seemingly killing Vanessa, whom he correctly saw ■■ ■■ only obstacle to the Kingpin's return to crime. As Lynch intended, the Kingpin returned to power, defeating his former syndicate, but Fisk realized what Lynch had done and killed him as well.

Continuing to cement his power, the Kingpin successfully arranged the election of his agent Randolph Cherryh, ■■ the next mayor of New York City. However, when Daredevil found Vanessa ■■■ alive, he agreed to return her to Fisk only if he would force Cherryh to retire. Fisk acquiesced, but sent his assassin, Elektra, to kill Franklin Nelson in retaliation. Elektra was killed by Bullseye, who sought to reclaim his job as the Kingpin's chief assassin. Later, the Kingpin actually worked with Daredevil against Micah Synn, a savage jungle warlord who threatened ■■ empire.

The Kingpin continued to ■■■■ paths with the other heroes, including ■ drug-addled Punisher, whom he soundly defeated, and his old foe Spider-Man. He blamed Spider-Man for ■ failed effort to revive the nearly comatose Vanessa. Having recently had his scientists grant the Black Cat true bad ■■■ powers, the Kingpin claimed victory as ■■ was being partly responsible for driving Spider-Man and the Black Cat apart, due ■ ■■ risk her powers had on his life.

Meanwhile, Richard Fisk had adopted another alias, the Rose, hoping to interfere with ■■ father's business. The Kingpin determined ■■ Rose's identity, ■■ allowed him to continue to operate under ■ watchful eye.

Desperate ■ ■■■■ Vanessa, the Kingpin kidnapped the wife of psychologist Dr. Paul Mondat, hoping to force him to ■■■■ Vanessa. Mondat, however, turned ■■ tables on him; he recovered Vanessa, but also made her loyal to him instead. After Daredevil saved Mondat's wife, the Kingpin admitted defeat and allowed Mondat ■ ■■■■ Vanessa to Europe for further treatment.

The Kingpin never forgot his defeats at Daredevil's hands. When ■■ obtained ■■ enemy's true identity, Matt Murdock, he used that information to systematically destroy his foe's professional ■■■■ and private life. When a maddened Daredevil confronted him, the Kingpin beat him unconscious and attempted to have him drowned. When this failed, the Kingpin sent the super soldier Nuke to draw Daredevil out, but this served only to draw further attention to his ■■■■ activities. Following this, the Kingpin mysteriously vanished, traveling to Europe to deal with ■ ■■■■■ to Vanessa. In ■■ absence, a number of would-be crimelords, such ■■ ■■■ Rose, Hammerhead, Silvermane, and even the neophyte Blue Boys, sought to fill the void created by his absence. The ensuing gang war also drew the attention of ■■■ Hobgoblin (Ned Leeds), Jack O'Lantern (Jason Macendale), and the Punisher. As the conflicts reached ■ boiling point, the Kingpin secretly returned to the city, a ■■■■ sanctioned by the U.S. government in order to end the gang war. The Kingpin subsequently downsized his operation, eliminating all those in ■■ organization whom he saw as ineffective.

Murdock, having recovered, started a free law clinic that would ■■■■ paths with the Kingpin's endeavors. Despite enlisting Murdock's former partner, Franklin "Foggy" Nelson, the Kingpin continued to lose in the court of law. In response, he sent Typhoid Mary to destroy both Murdock and Daredevil. Though Daredevil survived, he did leave the city behind for ■ time.

The Punisher led ■■ assault ■■ the Kingpin's operations, determined to ■■■ him down once ■■■ for all. The Kingpin again defeated the Punisher, whose life ■■■ negotiated by ■■■ Punisher's agent, Vernon Brooks. A short time after this, the Kingpin became ■ pawn of the Norse God Loki, serving alongside other prime movers in engineering ■■ "Acts of Vengeance," in which villains were directed to attack heroes who had no experience against them. After Loki's ■■■■ was exposed, the prime movers each went their separate ways. Shortly thereafter Fisk again encountered the Red Skull (one ■ the former prime movers) and the two vied for control of ■■ New York drug trade. The struggle culminated in single combat between ■■■ Red Skull and Kingpin. The Red Skull possessed a cloned body of Captain America, ■■ ■■ had been recently weakened by imprisonment and starvation. Regardless, the Red Skull seriously underestimated ■■■ strength of the Kingpin, who nearly crushed him to death, forcing the Skull ■ surrender and give up his influence on the gangs ■ ■■■■ York.

The Kingpin ■■■ long utilized Oswald P. Silkworth, the Arranger, to coordinate many of his activities. Under the Kingpin's direction, the Arranger manipulated ■■■ mind-controlling mutant known as the Persuader to control the Punisher. Overstepping his limits, the Arranger attempted to have ■■■ Punisher kill rival drug lords, ■■■ Lobo Brothers. When this failed, ■■■ Lobo Brothers, werewolf-like mutants, came to ■■■■ York ■■■ attacked the Kingpin's operations. Irritated at these events, the Kingpin ■■■ the Arranger killed by ■■■ British assassins Knight and Fogg.

The Kingpin was subsequently hired by Daemian Wainscroft to [illegible] in the recovery of [illegible] Deke, who had been horribly mutated by SS-8, a [illegible] super soldier serum. These efforts brought him into a temporary alliance with the Punisher that eventually succeeded in stopping the monstrous Deke. However, the alliance [illegible] short-lived, [illegible] as the Punisher continued to oppose the Kingpin's operations, Fisk had the Punisher's partner, Microchip, kidnapped. The Kingpin even severed one of Microchip's fingers to blackmail [illegible] Punisher, [illegible] the vigilante had become mired in different plots and [illegible] Kingpin eventually released Microchip. The Punisher and other vigilantes subsequently joined forces to thwart the Kingpin's plot to [illegible] the European Channel Tunnel to form a [illegible] international [illegible] network under [illegible] control.

Returning to New York, Daredevil took [illegible] revenge on [illegible] Kingpin. He managed to capture and institutionalize Typhoid Mary, with whom the Kingpin had become romantic. Working with District Attorney Kathy Malper, Daredevil implicated Fisk in various criminal activities. In addition, agents of Hydra infiltrated Fisk's legitimate business and managed to [illegible] his financial [illegible], leaving him virtually penniless. Hydra assaulted Fisk Towers, destroying [illegible] property [illegible] essentially dissolving his empire. At the end, [illegible] Kingpin [illegible] defeated by Daredevil and arrested by the police. Posting bail, he went underground with nothing to [illegible] name.

Following [illegible] defeat, it appeared that Fisk's [illegible], Richard, [illegible] succeeded him as [illegible] Kingpin of Crime. However, the new "Kingpin" [illegible] actually Fisk's old ally, Alfredo Morelli. Alfredo became too absorbed in this new role, and Richard became [illegible] Blood Rose to oppose him. After being toppled from power, Alfredo went on to become the criminal Gauntlet.

Meanwhile, [illegible] Kingpin [illegible] made his way overseas [illegible] begun to rebuild [illegible] power and financial base, taking control of Fujikawa Industries. He made a second attempt at forming and controlling a united European crime network, but [illegible] foiled by Daredevil (during his time as Laurent LeVasseur). After selling Daredevil's identity to [illegible] criminal Mysterio, Fisk organized attacks on [illegible] New York [illegible] lords who had taken [illegible] place and regained his position, albeit with a smaller empire [illegible] he had [illegible] commanded. He retained this position for [illegible] time, but a janitor, Lenny Cebulski, found incriminating files in the crime boss's closet [illegible] sought legal advice and protection from Murdock. The Kingpin had Cebulski killed, and sent his former ward Maya Lopez, now known as Echo, to keep Murdock off the [illegible]. Lenny Cebulski's twin brother Larry sought vengeance on the Kingpin, shooting him several times. The Kingpin narrowly escaped death, but by then Echo [illegible] learned that it was the Kingpin who had killed her [illegible]. Enraged, she shot [illegible] in the face, leaving him blind.

Regaining his position, the Kingpin soon earned the ire of Sammy Silke, Jr., the son of [illegible] of [illegible] Kingpin's old partners. Silke convinced Richard Fisk to support him, and he soon organized an ambush on the Kingpin. The Kingpin's inner circle descended upon him with knives, stabbing him repeatedly [illegible] leaving him to die.

The Kingpin's [illegible] bulk again saved his [illegible] and loyal agents provided him with private [illegible], though they allowed it to be believed [illegible] he had died. Upon learning this, Vanessa returned to America, had her husband [illegible] to Europe for care, and led the Kingpin's [illegible] in taking vengeance on all involved in the attack. Vanessa herself killed their son Richard for his betrayal, after which she divided [illegible] his empire and returned to Europe, hoping never to return.

The Kingpin awakened to find himself totally healed and his eyesight restored. He returned to New York, took [illegible] vengeance on Sammy Silke (who had turned himself in to the FBI for protection), and also killed the [illegible] who helped Vanessa execute Richard. Pushing Typhoid Mary back into insanity, he [illegible] her against Daredevil. When [illegible] failed, he [illegible] Bullseye to kill Daredevil's newest love interest, Milla Donovan. After overcoming these threats, Daredevil confronted the Kingpin directly. Pushed to ferocity by recent events, Daredevil managed to beat the Kingpin unconscious, after which he dumped him off at Josie's Bar [illegible] Grill and announced himself to be the new Kingpin of Hell's Kitchen.

It is fairly certain that Wilson Fisk will [illegible] again regain his status and power, as he has proven his staying power as the Kingpin of Crime.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Height: 6'7"
Weight: 450 lbs.
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Bald

Distinguishing Features: The Kingpin is bald.

Alter Ego(s): [illegible]

Superhuman Powers: None

Abilities: [illegible] is [illegible] entirely of muscle that has been developed to enormous size, much like a sumo wrestler, and he [illegible] human [illegible]. His bulk shields him from many forms of [illegible] either providing padding or [illegible] wounds [illegible] only strike him relatively superficially.

[illegible] has extraordinary skill in [illegible] combat, specializing in a [illegible] of martial [illegible] including sumo wrestling. His fighting skills and unusual agility for a man of his size compensate for [illegible] difference between his human level of strength and that of Spider-Man when the two [illegible] unarmed combat. [illegible] also has severe inhibitions about [illegible] his strength against an opponent without superhuman [illegible] fear of killing him [illegible].

[illegible] genius and a highly ski[illegible] and [illegible] numerous [illegible] even superhumans, almost all [illegible] whom are fiercely loyal [illegible] him [illegible] to dedication, fear, or both.

Weapons: The [illegible] has sometimes carried a walking stick which contains a laser weapon that [illegible] pulse of 300 [illegible] energy to vaporize a hand[illegible] stick can also be used to fire a concentrated [illegible] gas. The Kingpin's diamond stickpin also contains a small, [illegible] concentrated spray [illegible] is effective [illegible] fired directly into an opponent's face at close [illegible].

MISTER FEAR

REAL NAME: Zoltan Drago; Samuel "Starr" Saxon; Larry Cranston; Alan Fagan

KNOWN ALIASES: Saxon is currently known as Machinesmith; Cranston formerly used the alias Harold Cranstone

IDENTITY: (all) Publicly known

OCCUPATION: (all) Professional criminal; (Drago) former sculptor and amateur chemist; (Saxon) robotocist; (Cranston) lawyer, university professor; (Fagan) former businessman

CITIZENSHIP: United States of America; Drago and Saxon are legally dead; Fagan has a criminal record

PLACE OF BIRTH: (Saxon) Memphis, Tennessee; (Fagan) Madison, Wisconsin; others unrevealed

MARITAL STATUS: (all) Single

KNOWN RELATIVES: (Saxon) unnamed mother (deceased); (Cranston) Alan Fagan (nephew), Ariel Tremmore (grandniece); (Fagan) Larry Cranston (uncle), Ariel Tremmore (daughter)

GROUP AFFILIATION: (Drago) former member of Fellowship of Fear, unwitting agent of the Dweller-in-Darkness; (Saxon) Skeleton Crew (as Machinesmith); (Cranston) utilized Charles Boroughs, Gladiator (unnamed), Insomnia, Molten Man; (Fagan) New Enforcers Inner Circle

EDUCATION: (Drago) bachelor's degree in art; (Saxon) doctorate in computer science and engineering; (Cranston) law degree; (Fagan) expelled from various colleges

FIRST APPEARANCE: (Drago) Daredevil Vol. 1 #6 (1965); ("Starr" Saxon) Daredevil Vol. 1 #49 (1969), (Saxon as Mr. Fear) Daredevil Vol. 1 #54 (1969); (Cranston) Daredevil Vol. 1 #88 (1972), (Cranston as Mr. Fear) Daredevil Vol. 1 #91 (1972); (Fagan) Marvel Team-Up Vol. 1 #92 (1980)

Art by Wally Wood

HISTORY: Zoltan Drago ran a wax museum and dreamed of creating an army of slaves by causing his sculptures to come to life. While developing a chemical process he thought would make this happen, his thoughts were tainted by the demonic Fear Lord known as the Dweller-in-Darkness, causing him instead to create a gas that induced fear when inhaled. Inspired by the possibilities, Drago manufactured thousands of pellets of the gas and designed a frightening costume. Calling himself Mr. Fear, Drago used the gas to enlist the Eel (Leopold Stryke) and the Ox (Raymond Bloch) to serve him in his Fellowship of Fear. While committing crimes for personal gain, Mr. Fear encountered Daredevil, who used a fan to disperse the fear gas, enabling him to defeat the criminal. Though sent to prison with his paraphernalia confiscated, Drago had taken the precaution of making a duplicate costume and stashing it and a cache of gas pellets in a secret location in a lower Manhattan warehouse.

Upon Drago's release from prison, Daredevil's enemy, Samuel "Starr" Saxon, confronted him at a New York City hotel. Saxon forced Drago to tell him where his Mr. Fear costume and gun were hidden. Once Saxon had the information, he shot Drago in cold blood. Across the hall, Lawrence Cranston, a former classmate of Matt Murdock, overheard the exchange. Saxon located the gear and began masquerading as Mr. Fear. In battle with Daredevil, he apparently fell to his death from his hovercraft. Saxon's robots found his body after the fall and preserved his mind in a robot body, in which form he became known as the Machinesmith.

Lawrence Cranston, a law school classmate of Matthew Murdock, had been staying in the room across the hall at the same hotel as Drago. Cranston had hated Murdock ever since the

underclassman had defeated him in a mock trial, and he suspected Murdock was Daredevil. After Saxon's death, Cranston masqueraded as a relative of Saxon's and obtained a court order allowing him custody of the Mr. Fear costume and equipment. Cranston waited for the right moment and knew he had found it when both Daredevil and Murdock moved to San Francisco, thus confirming his suspicion. Part of the law firm Broderick, Sloan, and Cranston, Lawrence convinced his partners to hire Murdock as an associate. Cranston used the job to get close to Murdock so he could ambush him. However, Daredevil recognized the scent of the fear gas, enabling him to avoid its effects. Daredevil unmasked Mr. Fear as Cranston, who leapt off the building to escape. However, Cranston had left behind his jets and fell to his apparent death.

Upon Cranston's apparent demise, the outfit came into possession of his nephew, Alan Fagan, a wealthy businessman. Fagan planned to use the costume in a scheme involving the building of a private nuclear weapon, but his plans were foiled by Spider-Man and Hawkeye. After a short jail sentence, Fagan acquired a new chemical which made men irresistible to women. He used this chemical on Betty Brant, then used her connections with Peter Parker to draw Spider-Man into a plot for revenge. However, Spider-Man helped Betty overcome the effects of both chemicals and they defeated Mr. Fear together.

Fagan then joined the short-lived New Enforcers, serving in the secret Inner Circle alongside the Controller, Fixer (Norbert Ebersol), Madame Menace (Sunset Bain), and Mentallo. However, he was soon sent to prison, during which time his illegitimate daughter, Ariel Tremmore, sought vengeance on her father, who she believed had wronged both her and her mother. Ariel paid another inmate to cut a piece of her father's face off; from this she had a chemist synthesize a variant of the fear chemical. She used the redesigned chemical to physically transform herself into Shock, Mistress of Fear. Able to cause both fear and hatred, Ariel ran afoul of Daredevil, who re-dosed her with the chemical, returning her to normal so she could be arrested. From his hospital bed, Fagan plotted vengeance.

Meanwhile, Cranston had somehow survived his fall and was secretly living as a professor at Columbia Law School under the assumed name Harold Cranstone. There he used his fear gas to take vengeance on the faculty members who had overlooked him as a student. As Mr. Fear, he kidnapped reporter Ben Urich and held him alongside the kidnapped faculty members in order to draw Daredevil into a trap. Daredevil defeated Mr. Fear and freed his hostages, but Cranston escaped and returned to Columbia to teach as Cranstone.

Cranston secretly continued to plot against Daredevil, sending agents such as the manic woman Insomnia and the mentally controlled Molten Man against him. Fear then led Murdock to Ryker's Island where he initiated a violent revolt and then sent a new Gladiator against him. Another of Mr. Fear's pawns, Vincent Grazia, rebelled against Fear and used a fire hose against the Gladiator, enabling Daredevil to gain the upper hand. Mr. Fear escaped capture, meanwhile breaking out the psychopathic criminal Charles Boroughs.

Under Cranston's guidance, Boroughs went on a killing spree, eventually stalking Karen Page until she was forced to kill him in self-defense. Cranston arranged for Page to be framed for Boroughs' murder, but Murdock got the charges against Karen dropped when Daredevil linked Mr. Fear to the crime. Escaping capture yet again, Cranston still lives his secret life as a professor, waiting for the right time to strike again. He has also frequented the underworld establishment known as the Bar with No Name.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Height: (Drago) 6'; (Saxon) 6'1"; (Cranston) 5'10"; (Fagan) 5'11"
Weight: (Drago) 170 lbs.; (Saxon) 175 lbs.; (Cranston) 150 lbs.; (Fagan) 165 lbs.
Eyes: (Drago, Saxon) Brown; (Cranston) Blue; (Fagan) Hazel
Hair: (Drago, Saxon, Cranston) Brown; (Fagan) Silver

POWERS & ABILITIES:

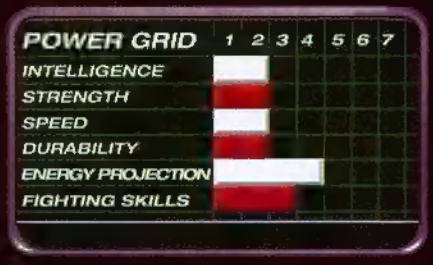
Abilities: Drago had a gifted intellect and was an accomplished sculptor and talented amateur chemist. Saxon was a genius with vast expertise and innovative ability in cybernetics and bionics. Cranston has legal expertise and Fagan was highly adept in business.

Weapons: Mister Fear uses compounds based on pheromones, chemicals produced by most animals, used to communicate a variety of simple messages over distances. The particular pheromone he uses is the flight-scent pheromone, which stimulates fear reactions in herd animals. This drug, tailored for human beings, whose reactions to pheromones are not completely understood, induces severe anxiety, fear, and panic in his victims, rendering them incapable of fighting or resisting his will.

The drug is most commonly used in the form of gas pellets shot from a gun. The pellets rupture on contact, releasing the flight scent, which is inhaled by the victim. The dosage contained in one pellet is enough to incapacitate a normal adult male for about 15 minutes, or an exceptionally fit male, such as Daredevil, for about five minutes. The side effects of anxiety, edginess, and mild nausea can persist for several days.

The flight scent can be administered in other ways: Saxon planted a supply of pellets in Daredevil's billy club with a time-release mechanism, whereas Fagan used a miniature hypodermic needle mounted on his ring to inject a large dose of the liquid directly into his victim's bloodstream. Cranston later used gloves able to fire darts of the liquid to administer it into the bloodstream as well. Small but effective doses of the flight scent can be absorbed through the pores in the skin within an enclosed space, but the length of time it takes limits its usefulness.

Saxon also used "repello-rays" (wrist projectors that discharged concussive energy beams) and a hover-platform. Cranston has also used one-man flying jet devices. Fagan also adapted other pheromones to his use, including one that makes a man sexually irresistible to women.



FOGGY NELSON

REAL NAME: Franklin P. Nelson
KNOWN ALIASES: Guil Nelson, impersonated Daredevil
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Lawyer, former District Attorney
CITIZENSHIP: U.S. citizen with no criminal record
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
MARITAL STATUS: Divorced

KNOWN RELATIVES: Edward Nelson (father), Rosalind Sharpe (mother), Anna Nelson (stepmother), Candace Nelson (half-sister), Deborah Harris Nelson (ex-wife)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Columbia University (undergraduate), Harvard Law School
FIRST APPEARANCE: Daredevil Vol. 1 #1 (1964)

HISTORY: Franklin Nelson, nicknamed "Foggy," is the son of Rosalind "Razor" Sharpe, a ruthless attorney who deserted her husband not long after their son was born. Nelson rarely saw his mother during his youth, instead being raised by his father and stepmother. Nevertheless, her career motivated him to study pre-Law at State University, where he quickly befriended his roommate, Matt Murdock, whom he eventually followed to Columbia University and Harvard Law School. Murdock, despite his blindness, occasionally used his physical skills to protect Nelson from campus bullies. Nelson did not realize that Murdock possessed superhumanly enhanced senses which he would eventually use as the costumed hero Daredevil.

Shortly before graduation, Nelson learned that one of his instructors, Professor Golde, had committed plagiarism, but Golde threatened to sabotage Nelson's efforts to pass the bar if he revealed this secret. Contemplating the situation, Nelson was present at a local diner when a criminal called Kruel burst upon the scene, fleeing from his employer, Wilson Fisk, the Kingpin. Fisk beat Kruel and left him for dead, then had Nelson and the others present drugged so that they would forget the encounter. Nevertheless, Nelson's subconscious recollection of the event spurred him to pursue justice regardless of the consequences to himself, and he exposed Golde's deceit, earning his law degree shortly thereafter.

With financial backing from Nelson's parents, Nelson & Murdock opened their own law firm and soon hired a secretary, Karen Page, who by coincidence had also been a witness to the clash between Kruel and the Kingpin; both men were drawn to the beautiful Page. Shortly thereafter, the fledgling firm was sought as legal counsel by the superhuman team known as the Fantastic Four, beginning a trend of superhuman clients for the firm. With a place in the limelight thus established, Nelson was soon encouraged to run as a Reform Party candidate for the position of New York City's District Attorney. In the course of his campaign, Nelson was reunited with Deborah Harris, formerly his high school girlfriend; however, Harris was secretly working with the criminal Organizer to rig elections in an effort to control the city. The Organizer's operations were exposed by Daredevil, and both the Organizer and Harris went to prison.

Nelson next pursued Karen Page as a romantic interest, only to find her attention divided between Matt Murdock and Daredevil; like Nelson, she was unaware that the two men were one and the same. In an ill-conceived attempt to impress Page, Nelson purchased a costume in an attempt to convince her that he was Daredevil. The costume shop proprietor, Melvin Potter, offered to attack Nelson as the Gladiator to further the deception, but he was defeated by the real Daredevil, an event which triggered the unstable Potter's subsequent criminal activities. When Deborah Harris was released from prison months later, she renewed her relationship with Nelson and worked alongside him as he again campaigned for and

Art by Tim Sale

then achieved the position of District Attorney. Nelson subsequently appointed his friend Murdock as a Special Assistant to the D.A.'s office.

Having achieved such success, Nelson contemplated a gubernatorial run; however, the mysterious Mister Kline, an android from the future, sought to undermine any possibility of Nelson becoming governor. He blackmailed Nelson into unfairly prosecuting the adventurer called the Black Widow, a close friend of Daredevil's, on false murder charges. Murdock himself defended the Widow in court, and she was cleared of all charges. Kline's blackmail gambit was revealed, and Nelson's gubernatorial chances were ruined. He contemplated resigning as D.A., but Murdock convinced him to remain and continue his good work.

However, Nelson's troubles with superhuman subversives were far from over. He became the target of an assassination attempt by the terrorist group Black Spectre, was abducted by the criminal Death-Stalker as part of a trap for Daredevil, and finally targeted by Hydra when S.H.I.E.L.D. approached him as a potential candidate for the spy agency's board of directors, an offer Nelson ultimately declined. When attorney Blake Tower challenged Nelson for the D.A.'s office, Nelson found his re-election campaign being sabotaged by the costumed criminal known as the Jester. Tower disavowed the smear campaign, soon exposed by Daredevil, but Nelson nevertheless lost the election. He and Murdock instead opened Storefront Legal Services to act as legal advisors to the public. Nelson continued to date Deborah Harris, only for her to be abducted by the mind-controlling Purple Man, whose activities were disrupted by his enemy Daredevil. Storefront Legal Services soon closed due to financial mismanagement, and the two attorneys reopened their law firm of Nelson & Murdock.

Nelson married Deborah Harris, but their relationship became strained as she attempted to mold him into the sort of successful husband she desired. Nelson also found himself the subject of another assassination attempt when the Kingpin sent Elektra after him. However, when Nelson recognized Elektra as Matt's former girlfriend, she found herself unable to complete the assignment and spared his life. His relationship with his wife took a turn for the worse when she became attracted to Micah Synn, a brutish descendant of English nobility and a client of Nelson & Murdock. Deborah convinced Nelson to cover Synn's crimes by lying in his defense, then deserted him for Synn, who brutally mistreated her. When Synn was brought to justice by Daredevil, she attempted to reconcile with Nelson; however, their relationship could not be salvaged and the two divorced.

Upon learning Daredevil's secret identity the Kingpin sabotaged Murdock's life, and Nelson defended his friend from false charges of bribery; although Murdock lost his license to practice law, Nelson managed to keep him out of prison. Driven to the brink of insanity by the Kingpin's machinations, Murdock dropped out of sight. Nelson later became involved with photographer Glorianna O'Breen, the niece of Debbie Harris and a former flame of Murdock's who found herself drawn to Nelson. With the firm of Nelson & Murdock disbanded and broken by Murdock's disappearance, Nelson took a position with Kelco Industrials, unaware that the corporation was overseen by the Kingpin.

Murdock overcame his difficulties and, with Karen Page, opened a law clinic in his home neighborhood, Hell's Kitchen. Murdock clashed with Nelson over Kelco's illegal chemical dumping, and O'Breen left him because of his representation of Kelco. Upon learning of the Kingpin's involvement, Nelson resigned. After eventually managing to get Murdock's law license reinstated, the two reopened the firm of Nelson & Murdock. However, when reporter Sara Harrington sought to expose Daredevil's secret identity, Daredevil faked Matt Murdock's death, allowing Nelson and his other friends to believe him dead. In grief for his longtime friend, Nelson soon found himself the target of Kruel, who was insanely hunting down witnesses to the Kingpin's assault upon him. Rescued by Daredevil, he was shocked by the later revelation that Murdock was still alive, having gone through a mental breakdown after attempting to live a new life as Jack Ballin. Nelson was outraged that Murdock had kept Daredevil's identity a secret from him, but he nevertheless stood by his friend and helped Murdock recover his faculties.

Murdock's supposed death was attributed to a S.H.I.E.L.D. operation, and he and Nelson joined a new law firm under Nelson's mother, Rosalind Sharpe. Their first client was the villainous Mister Hyde, who proved to be innocent of the particular murder with which he was charged. Another client, no stranger to superhuman intrigue, was Liz Osborn, herself the stepsister of the Molten Man and the widow of the second Green Goblin. Nelson began dating Osborn; he was beside her during confrontations with Mysterio and the original Green Goblin, her father-in-law Norman Osborn.

When Mysterio set out to destroy Daredevil's life as a climax to his own less-than-successful criminal career, he manipulated Nelson into pursuing client Lydia McKenzie, then framed him for her murder. Sharpe fired Nelson from the firm as a result, and Murdock resigned in protest. Although proven innocent of the murder when Daredevil exposed this hoax, Nelson's indiscretion nevertheless cost him his relationship with Liz Osborn. Nelson & Murdock re-opened their law firm, and Nelson later found himself facing his mother in court, failing in his efforts to indict the Kingpin.

When Daredevil's secret identity was again exposed, this time in the Daily Globe, Nelson stood by his friend during the crisis. Warning of the potential legal consequences should the truth be revealed, Nelson dissuaded Murdock from revealing the truth, convincing him instead to sue the Daily Globe. Unborn was less successful in persuading Murdock to give up his costumed identity, but he continues as Murdock's confidant and advisor, even as his partner throws himself deeper into the war against crime.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 220 lbs.
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown

POWERS & ABILITIES

Superhuman Powers: None. Foggy Nelson is a highly skilled attorney with an encyclopedic knowledge of the law.

POWER GRID 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

INTELLIGENCE	4
STRENGTH	3
SPEED	4
DURABILITY	3
ENERGY PROJECTION	1
FIGHTING SKILLS	3